



# The Anchorage VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ANCHORAGE  
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Dear League Members:



## HAPPY HALLOWEEN! Trick or Treat

This edition is focusing on the subject of **Redistricting**. Please take a few moments to review the material on page 2. Think about submitting your thoughts to the State Redistricting Board on the proposed district plans. Your input matters. Thanks!

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### CIVIC EDUCATION

Supreme Court justices Sonia Sotomayor and Neil Gorsuch see many things differently. One cause, however, brings them together.

The cause is civic education, which includes the study of our system of government and incorporates a wider set of values relating to the rights and duties of citizenship.



**LWV Juneau** - for achieving 175 members strong.

**Tuan Graziano** - elected as the new president of the Union of Students of the University of Alaska Anchorage (USUAA). Tuan has always been an advocate for bettering his community. (He is one our board members as well.) He is a UAA senior majoring in economics and minoring in political science.

### **What should Americans know about their system of government and when should they know it?**

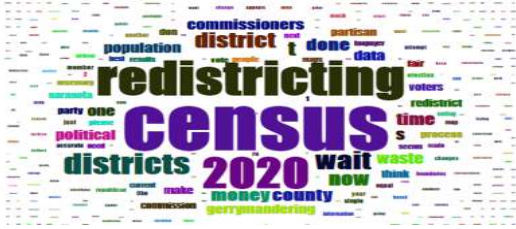
Ninety percent of immigrants pass the citizenship test, but only 36 percent of native-born Americans succeed. (2018 survey, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation).

### **74% were senior citizens!!!**

(Excerpt from Mark F. Bernstein, Princeton Alumni Weekly, April 2021)

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Any person 16 years of age and older, male or female, may become a League member.

# Alaska's Redistricting Process



*Redistricting – the process of rebalancing election districts based on the latest Census data – is underway in Alaska. Alaska has just one congressional district, so the number of U.S. House members from Alaska will not change as is likely to happen in other states, but Alaska does draw state legislative districts after each census.*

## Redistricting: Next Steps and Anchorage Impacts

By Blythe A. Campbell, LWV Anchorage Treasurer

### **STATEWIDE REDISTRICTING:**

With less than three weeks until Alaska's redistricting board must submit final maps, public hearings continue across Alaska. In Anchorage, the Redistricting Board will hold an **Open House on Wednesday, October 27 from 5-7 p.m. at the LakeFront Hotel in Spenard**. At the Open House, you can view the map proposals and ask questions of Redistricting Board and staff.

A **statewide dial-in** will be held on **Saturday, October 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** The toll-free dial-in number for Anchorage is (907) 563-9085. You can also submit written comments to the Board by using this link: <https://www.akredistrict.org/map-comment/>.

Based on the census data, the redistricting board determined that the ideal Alaska house district should have 18,335 people. The board generated tables showing what has changed in each of Alaska's 40 house districts, and what the differences are between each district's 2010 population and the 2020 census ideal of 18,335. Alaska's constitution requires the final house districts to be as close as possible to the ideal population.

The Municipality of Anchorage's 2020 population is 291,247, a loss of 579 people over 2010. With the census ideal number of 18,335, the Municipality would have 15.8 house districts. We currently have 16 districts wholly within the Municipality and share one district (House District 12) with a portion of the Mat-Su Borough. To our north, the Mat-Su Borough population grew by 20% over 2010 and to our south, the Kenai Peninsula Borough population grew by 6%. House districts are not required to line up with borough boundaries, and several proposed maps split districts across those boundaries.

### **ANCHORAGE REDISTRICTING:**

Redistricting also impacts the Anchorage Assembly. Once the State finalizes its map, Anchorage's city charter requires the Anchorage Assembly to determine whether it is "malapportioned" within two months and, if so, to complete reapportionment within six months.

In April 2020, voters passed a ballot initiative to add a 12<sup>th</sup> seat to the Assembly, with boundaries to be drawn "following adoption of a final state redistricting plan..." It seems certain that with 12 seats instead of 11, the Assembly will determine that it is malapportioned.

Following that determination, the Assembly would need to have new districts decided no later than May 10, 2022 – which is after the April 5, 2022 Municipal Election. The charter requires candidates to file no later than 67 days prior to the election and the Municipal Clerk to give notice at least 58 days before the election. The Assembly could act on reapportionment in time to impact the April 2022 election, but it would be a very tight timeline for a process that is likely to be complex and contentious.

## **REDISTRICTING LINKS:**

Public Notice for the October 27 Open House

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=204045>

Public Notice for the Statewide Dial-In

<https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=204140>

Alaska's Redistricting Board

<https://www.akredistrict.org>

League of Women Voters of the U.S. People Powered Fair Maps™ information

<https://www.lwv.org/peoplepoweredfairmaps>

Anchorage proposed maps:

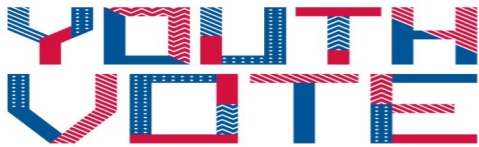
[https://www.akredistrict.org/files/7716/3338/7255/All\\_Anchorage\\_-\\_Regional.pdf](https://www.akredistrict.org/files/7716/3338/7255/All_Anchorage_-_Regional.pdf)

Anchorage Daily News "Explainer"

<https://www.adn.com/politics/2021/10/03/4-things-to-know-as-alaskas-redistricting-board-takes-public-testimony-monday-in-anchorage/>

Anchorage Code re Elections

[https://library.municode.com/ak/anchorage/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodeId=TIT28EL\\_CH28.20TIELNO\\_28.20.010TIMEEL](https://library.municode.com/ak/anchorage/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=TIT28EL_CH28.20TIELNO_28.20.010TIMEEL)



## **REDISTRICTING AND GERRYMANDERING PROJECT**

This self-guided or teacher facilitated project is designed for middle & high school classrooms, although we welcome adult participants as well.

We encourage you to watch the videos, read the articles, and try the suggested activities to better understand redistricting and gerrymandering.

This project is currently being updated to reflect the most recent Alaska information - if you see an "UPDATES COMING SOON" banner when you visit the site, please know we are making some adjustments and welcome you to check back for the latest info.

### **Fair Maps & Gerrymandering - A collection of Information and Activities for Students**

